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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/717,481	11/21/2000	Roland Thomas Palmatier	600.1075	9584

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Davidson Davidson & Kappel LLC
14th Floor
485 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10018

EXAMINER

CRENSHAW, MARVIN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/717,481

Applicant(s)

PALMATIER, ROLAND THOMAS

Examiner

Marvin P. Crenshaw

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 31-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 31-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3,5 and 35,36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards et al. in view of Petersen et al.

Richards et al. teaches a printing device (Fig. 1) comprising a roll-to-roll (Fig. 1) printing press for forming a plurality of printed rolls (7). However, Richards et al. doesn't teach a separate assembly device having a roll unwinding device and unrolling the plurality of printed rolls. Petersen et al. teaches an assembly device (Fig. 1) the assembly device having a plurality (15-18) of roll unwinding devices separate from the printing press and unrolling the plurality of printed rolls, a first folder (31) accepting at least one first web from the roll unwinding devices and forming first signatures and a second folder (31) accepting at least one second web from the roll unwinding devices and forming second signatures, the printing device including a roll storage unit (19) disposed between the printing press and the assembly device, the printing device wherein the assembly device includes more than four roll (15-16) unwinding devices. It would be obvious to modify the printing device of Richards et al. to have a

separate assembly device as taught by Petersen et al. to form signatures with multiple roll unwinding devices.

Richards et al. also teaches a printing device wherein the printing press includes a slitter (80) for slitting the web into a plurality of ribbons, the ribbons being wound to form the plurality of printed rolls (Fig. 2).

With respect to claim 1, having a second folder, it would be obvious to have a second folding unit to form second signatures from the unwinding rolls since it is clear that two folding units would expedite processing of the two rolls.

With respect to claim 5, the printing assembly device including more than four roll unwinding devices is a design choice for having a duplication of parts to have more than one roll unwinding devices to form signatures.

With respect to claim 36, Richards et al. teaches the printing device further comprising a processor (See col. 4, lines 9 – 15) for accessing a database storing information related to the plurality of rolls.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards et al. in view of Peterson et al., and further in view of Welborn.

Richards et al. and Petersen et al. together teach all that is claimed as stated in the above rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 35, 36 and 38, except the assembly device further comprising a conveyor for collecting the first and second signatures. Welborn teaches an assembly device further comprising a conveyor (18) for collecting the first and second signatures. It would be obvious to further modify the assembly device of Richards et al. to have the assembly device further comprising a conveyor for collecting the first and second signatures as

taught by Welborn for folding and stacking the finished product in an efficient manner.

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petersen et al. in view of Hermach.

Petersen et al. teaches an assembly device (Fig. 1) for assembling printed rolls of material comprising a plurality (15-18) of roll unwinding devices a first folder (31) accepting at least one first web from the roll unwinding devices and forming first signatures. However, Petersen et al. doesn't teach a second folder accepting at least one second web from the roll unwinding devices and forming second signatures. Hermach teaches a second folder (26B) accepting at least one second web from the roll unwinding devices and forming second signatures. It would be obvious to modify the assembly device of Petersen et al. to have a second folder accepting at least one second web from the roll unwinding device and forming signatures as taught by Hermach because one of ordinary skill would recognize that a second folder would expedite the formation of signatures. Peterson also teaches the assembly device wherein the first folder (See col. 3, line 10-14) includes a former board. The assembly device wherein the first folder includes a cutter (See col. 3, lines 9-14).

Claims 9 – 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petersen et al in view of Hermach, and further in view of Welborn.

Petersen et al. and Hermach together teach all that is claimed as stated in the above rejection of claims 6-8, except the assembly device wherein the first folder is a plow folder and the assembly device further comprising a conveyor for

collecting the first and second signatures. Welborn teaches an assembly device wherein the first folder is a plow folder (see col. 11, lines 8-11) and the assembly device further comprising a conveyor (18) for collecting the first and second signatures. It would be obvious to further modify the assembly device of Peterson et al. to have the assembly device having the first folder is a plow folder and the assembly device further comprising a conveyor for collecting the first and second signatures as taught by Welborn for folding and stacking the finished product in an efficient manner.

With respect to claim 11, the assembly device having a plurality of unwinding device include at least five roll unwinding devices is a design choice for having a duplication of parts to have more than one roll unwinding devices to form signatures.

Claims 31 - 34 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards et al. in view of Peterson et al. and further in view of Welborn.

Richards et al. teaches a printing device (Fig. 1) comprising a roll-to-roll (Fig. 1) printing press for forming a plurality of printed rolls (7). However, Richards et al. doesn't teach a separate assembly device having a roll unwinding device and unrolling the plurality of printed rolls. Petersen et al. teaches an assembly device (Fig. 1) the assembly device having a plurality (15-18) of roll unwinding devices separate from the printing press and unrolling the plurality of printed rolls, a first folder (31) accepting at least one first web from the roll unwinding devices and forming first signatures, the first folder having a first former board for lengthwise

folding of the first web and a transverse first cutting device for cutting the first web into signatures and a second folder (31) accepting at least one second web from the roll unwinding devices and forming second signatures, the second folder having a first former board for lengthwise folding of the first web and a transverse first cutting device for cutting the first web into signatures.

It would be obvious to modify the printing device of Richards et al. to have a separate assembly device as taught by Petersen et al. to form signatures with multiple roll unwinding devices.

Peterson and Richards teach all that is claimed above except a conveying device for collecting the first signatures and the second signatures from the first folder and the second folder. Welborn teaches an assembly device further comprising a conveyor (18) for collecting the first and second signatures from the first folder and second folder. It would be obvious to further modify the assembly device of Peterson et al. to have the assembly device further comprising a conveyor for collecting the first and second signatures as taught by Welborn for folding and stacking the finished product in an efficient manner.

With respect to claim 31, having a second folder, it would obvious to have a second folding unit to form second signatures from the unwinding rolls since it is clear that two folding units would expedite processing of the two rolls.

With respect to claim 34, Richards teaches the printing device (Fig. 2) wherein the assembly device for superposing at least two webs of the at least one first web unwound from the printed rolls prior to the first and second folders.

With respect to claim 37, Richards teaches the printing device further comprising a processor (See col. 4, lines 9 – 15) for accessing a database storing information related to the plurality of rolls.

With respect to claim 33, Richards et al. does not teach the printing device having the first folder exits the first signatures in a first direction and the second folder exits the second signatures in a second direction parallel to the first direction and the conveying device has a conveying direction perpendicular to the first and second direction. However, Peterson et al. teaches printing device having the first folder exits the first signatures in a first direction and the second folder exits the second signatures in a second direction parallel to the first direction. It would have been obvious to modify the printing device of Richards et al. to have the printing device having the first folder exits the first signatures in a first direction and the second folder exits the second signatures in a second direction parallel to the first direction as taught by Peterson et al. to expedite the processing of the two rolls after forming the signatures for stacking.

Welborn teaches an assembly device further comprising a conveyor (18) for collecting the first and second signatures. It would be obvious to further modify the assembly device of Richards et al. to have the assembly device further comprising a conveyor for collecting the first and second signatures as

taught by Welborn for folding and stacking the finished product in an efficient manner.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 12/01/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Specifically, Richards et al. teaches a printing unit for forming a plurality of printed rolls, and Peterson et al. teaches a separate printing device for unwinding rolls and forming signatures.

With respect to the arguments about the ribbons being used for roll-to-roll printing, the ribbons can be used as rolls for unwinding and to form signatures because they are cut to form ribbons and then transferred to another part of the press to be used (See col. 5, 18 – 35). Also, with the addition of Peterson et al., he forms the completed claimed apparatus of having one apparatus for making the rolls for unwinding (Richards et al.) and another apparatus for making the signatures. It would be obvious to combine two, Richards and Peterson et al., to have the claimed apparatus. Also, with respect to applicant's argument about the ribbons being discarded they are not, Richards's states that after the ribbons are cut and they are used further in the printing press.

With respect to applicant's argument of "the wrap up excess web is not used any further, (See Richards at col. 5, lines 41 et seq)", the Examiner cannot locate that discussion in Richards. Examiner would like for applicant to point out this feature that is discussed in the prior art.

With respect to claim 4 and 10, these claims have been addressed. Welborn teaches a conveyor for collecting signatures. It would be beneficial to

apply a conveyor for collecting the set of signatures, to expedite the collecting process.

With respect to the arguments of having a second folder, it would be obvious to have Hermach as a modification to the apparatus to expedite the printing process for forming a plurality of signatures at one time from the plurality of rolls simultaneously since he teaches having a second folder.

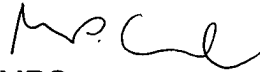
With respect to applicant's argument of claim 31, the claim has now been addressed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marvin P. Crenshaw whose telephone number is (571) 272-2158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MPC

February 19, 2004



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800